

MidAmerican Region, UUA
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Trustees Present: David Lauth, Brian Bach, Tammy Lemmer, Kyrie Bock, Sarah Oglesby-Duncan, Dorit Bergen

Staff Present: David Pyle, Sharon Dittmar

Call to Order:

David L. called the meeting to order at 7:00 CST.
Brian facilitated the meeting and offered opening words. This was followed by check-ins.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kyrie moved and David L. seconded adoption of the December minutes. Motion passed.

Book Discussion

Brian led a discussion of the introduction and first 3 chapters of “An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States” by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Chapters 4 & 5 will be discussed next month.

Board Covenant

Dorit led the discussion, which began by looking at the existing covenant, adopted in 2013 and modified in 2015. There is some language there that starts to address our concerns, but more is needed about how to handle uncomfortable situations that may arise during a meeting. David L and Dorit will draft some proposed language that could be inserted into the covenant for the members to read. It was also agreed that language regarding the dismantling of systems of white supremacy would be inserted in the covenant. David L. reported that the nominating committee already has a slate of candidates prepared, so instead of giving them the new covenant, David would include it in his meetings with new Board members.

Regional Lead Report

David P. reported that the National Advisory Council will likely take longer to organize than was originally planned. David presented a list of 6 congregations which he has identified for the Board to interview. All of them have had significant contact with the Regional staff in the last year. In addition to the information David provides, there will be a link to each congregation’s page on the UUA website. Taken together, this should provide sufficient context for the calls that Board members will make. Questions were raised about what would be done with the information we will gather during the interview. David P says that the first two questions on the survey came from the UUA Board and that they are not looking for metrics, they are looking for stories. Jessica York has said that she wants these questions to lead to conversations. We can’t change the questions on the survey because they are being used in other regions as well, but we can *add* questions. Dorit said that she didn’t have time to make 3 calls per month and attend a monthly meeting, as was outlined in the report.

David L suggested that we view this round of calls as a pilot, with the expectation that each member would make one call between now and the end of February. It was agreed that David P will circulate the list of congregations to the Board members who will use Reply All to pick a congregation. David P is happy to send an introductory email to a congregation if a Board member requests that he do so.

Regional Assembly Update

Sharon reported that registration will go live on January 15. Cost will be \$100 with scholarships available. Board members need to register and there will be a special space on the form for that.

Board members are expected to arrive on Thursday afternoon or evening and have dinner together that night. Kyrie cautioned that 2 hours should be allowed to get from O'Hare to Rockford at that time of day. The Board will gather for breakfast on Friday at 8:00 and then work until 4:00 PM on Friday. There will be a social event Friday night. The Assembly will start on Saturday morning sometime between 9:00 AM and 9:30 AM and end before 5:00 PM. Sharon reports that the Rockford congregation has been tremendous and that the Board might want to write a letter of thanks to them.

Process Discussion

Brian led the discussion. Among other things, it was agreed that having the book discussion at the beginning of the meeting was a good idea and should be continued.

Brian shared closing words, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM CST.

Respectfully submitted by
Dorit Bergen
Board Secretary